

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2012**

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Greg LoBuono, vice chair
Veronica Craig, recording secretary
Brian Deroo
Mike Lane
Becky Montag
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative
Guests: Chuck Ulrich, Anne Fieher-Flaig, Dave Butsch

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. chairperson Dave Colteryahn.

Welcome Guests: Ben introduced Chuck Ulrich who has applied for the open EC seat and will be approved later this month. Anne Fieher-Flaig is District Coordinator for Butler County Recycling & Solid Waste Division. Dave Butsch is head of the Fairfield Public Works Department.

Minutes: Minutes for the July meeting were approved with no corrections.

Recycling Updates: Anne Fieher-Flaig applauded the EC for its work to encourage community recycling. There has been an increase in recycling, from 11% of total waste in 2007 to 15% in 2011. New 65 gallon carts will be available to residents at no cost for 3 times the recycling capacity. Another plus, there are no drainage holes to drip onto garage floors. Anne reported that the Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste District has invested in our community with a 10K grant to Fairfield City Schools and has provided a grant for Big Belly solar trash compactors. She outlined the "Recycle Bank" and the "Pay as You Throw" programs. The latter offers a one time 50K grant, in addition to a 25K incentive.

Ms.Fieher-Flaig provided handouts with the new specifications for materials that can be recycled in Fairfield. The EC will pass these on to residents at our next community event.

Anne was asked about the removal of battery recycling bins around the area. She explained that some types of batteries are dangerous to recycle, so the local program was been stopped. "Batteries Plus" on Princeton Pike still accepts old batteries, thus keeping dangerous materials out of the landfill. She regrets that the old program was easier, but it proved to be unsafe to have District employees transport the old batteries from drop off locations to the processing locations.

Fairfield Public Works Dept. Recycling Perspective: Dave explained that Rumpke is the only waste hauler the City has ever used. Fairfield has a 5 year contract with them, with a 5 year extension. We are in the second interval. Until recently was no competition by other haulers.

The new 65 gallon wheeled bins soon will be available. Information on how to obtain a cart will appear in the *Flyer* and on upcoming utility bills.

Waste pick-up cost for residents has been reduced and will go into effect in October. Dave will address the issue of multi-family recycling for apartments with Rumpke. Recycling collection bins at Seward and Tylersville, and at Jungle Jim's have been pulled due to mess, overflow and improper usage.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles: Becky shared an article "In Love with Parks." Ben included information on the Asian long horned beetle in this month's packet. The news release will allow EC members to begin educating the public on this destructive menace found in Clermont County.

Wendi sent out dates for the Tree Academy program. Ben is attending and has completed his "junior year." He has gained valuable insights into many current urban forest issues.

EC Activity Hours: Greg L/2.5, Dave/5.5, Becky/1, Brian/1, Veronica/5.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Veronica completed the August/September clean-up. A sign up sheet will be passed around at the next meeting. Becky has volunteered to do the next one.

Parks Board Report

Bob was unable to attend tonight, so there is no report on their September 4, 2012 meeting. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Huffman Property will be on October 27, 2012.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: The stats are included in this month's packet, with a flow chart for tracking visitors. The trend shows the majority of hits are EAB related.

EAB Removal Grant: Ben inventoried ash trees along Ross Road near CGA. Most are infected with EAB, and many are bare and dead. A staggered removal is planned to avoid a barren and unsightly appearance. In the next month or so, Public Works will cut them down. After the stumps are ground, replanting can begin. The City is working on species selection.

Asian Long Horned Beetle: "ALB" for short. Ben provided the EC with a tree preference list. This menace leaves a #2 pencil-sized hole in the bark of its host. As of yet, there is no treatment or prevention for this beetle.

Commissioner Reports

New Goals: Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Calendar:

City Council Meeting – September 10, 2012 at 7:00 pm, City Building

EC Meeting – October 3, 2012 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Parks Board Meeting – October 9, 2012 at 5:30 pm, CAC

Huffman Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – October 27, 2012 at 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Adjournment: at 7:40 p.m.